

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 03347 191825Z

53

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 3347

GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TWGS: PFOR, NATO, CSCE

SUBJECT: CSCE: PUBLIC OPINION

REF: (A) USNATO 3069 (B) STATE 130785

1. AT JUNE 19 SPC DISCUSSION OF PUBLIC RELATIONS' ASPECTS OF CSCE (SEPTELS), ATTENTION FOCUSED ON SMALL AMOUNT OF TIME REMAINING TO SPC TO COMPLETE WORK ON THIS ISSUE IN VIEW OF FULL MBFR CALENDAR AND PACE OF CSCE DEVELOPMENTS IN GENEVA. TO DEAL WITH TIME PROBLEM, SPC ACCEPTED NETHERLANDS SUGGESTION THAT AN OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP MEET AS OFTEN AS NECESSARY THIS WEEK AND NEXT IN ORDER TO COMPLETE PAPER. FIRST MEETING OF WORKING GROUP WILL TAKE PLACE AFTERNOON JUNE 19.

2. WHILE SEVERAL REPS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH IMS MERGER OF DANISH AND FRG PAPERS (SEPTTEL), BELGIAN TABLING OF A "NON PAPER" ON THE BASIC ELEMENTS OF COMMON ALLIED POSITIONS ON CSCE SERVED TO TURN ATTENTION TO NEW ISSUE OF WHETHER TO ATTEMPT TO FORMULATE A COMMON ALLIED ASSESSMENT OF THE RESULTS OF CSCE
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PAGE 02 NATO 03347 191825Z

PRIOR TO STAGE III. NETHERLANDS, CANADIAN AND NORWEGIAN REPS WELCOMED BELGIAN PAPER AND ARGUED IN FAVOR OF SUCH AN EFFORT, CITING THE PRECEDENT OF THE EC-NINE'S PLANNED ASSESSMENT (SEE USNATO 3330, PARA 4). FRG AND DANISH REPS SPOKE IN FAVOR OF SPC

FIRST FINISHING PUBLIC RELATIONS PAPER, A VIEW WHICH MET WITH WIDESPREAD APPROVAL. ITALIAN REP SUGGESTED USING BELGIAN PAPER AS ANNEX TO MERGED FRG/DANISH PAPER. FRENCH REP EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM THAT ALLIES IN BRUSSELS WOULD BE ABLE TO COMPLETE A COMMON ASSESSMENT OF CSCE IN TIME TO BE USEFUL.

3. COMMENT: SPC DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTED BROADER ISSUE OF DESIRE OF SEVERAL ALLIES TO HAVE A COMMON NATO ASSESSMENT OF CSCE RESULTS BEFORE GOING TO HELSINKI. WE THINK A CONSULTATION IN BRUSSELS ON THIS SUBJECT, PERHAPS USING BELGIAN PAPER AS POINT OF DEPARTURE AND INVOLVING HIGH-LEVEL CSCE EXPERTS, WOULD BE USEFUL. US SUPPORT FOR THE IDEA WOULD SERVE TO DOCUMENT OUR COMMITMENT TO POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS, WHICH MIGHT BE A CONSTRUCTIVE VEHICLE FOR COORDINATING ALLIED STATEMENTS AT HELSINKI SUMMIT. WE MIGHT ENVISAGE THE PRODUCT OF NATO CONSULTATIONS AS A SHORT PAPER PROVIDING COMMON BENCHMARKS FOR ALLIED STATEMENTS AT THE HELSINKI SUMMIT. SUCH A PAPER WOULD SERVE SOME OF THE SAME PURPOSES FOR THE NATO FIFTEEN AS THE EC'S COMMON ASSESSMENT WILL FOR THE NINE. WE WOULD SEE THESE EFFORTS AS PARALLEL, RATHER THAN DUPLICATIVE.

4. ACTION: WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON GUIDANCE ON HOW TO RESPOND TO ALLIED ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF COMMON NATO ASSESSMENT OF CSCE RESULTS. STREATOR

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